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Briefing Sheet for the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, on a Memorandum by the Director, Joint Staff, for the JCS meeting, Friday, 25 March 1960, Agenda Item No. 3.

J.C.S. 1907/262

Subject: Reduction of Berlin Garrison (S)

Background: - At the 22 Jun 59 meeting of the coordinating group, Berlin Contingency Planning, Mr. Murphy indicated that Allied force ceilings in Berlin should be examined as an area in which the U.S. might induce concessions from the USSR during the then current Geneva talks.

- On 8 Jul the JCS submitted a memo to SECDEF which pointed out that the Allied Berlin Garrison, in addition to providing defense against external Soviet Bloc aggression and internal disturbances, strengthens the morale of West Berlin in the achievement of its position as a free and prosperous "show place" of Western democracy; and recommended that the following views be transmitted to the SecState:

a. A reduction of the Allied Berlin Garrison should not be effected as long as East Germany remains under Communistic domination.

b. A reduction of the Allied Berlin Garrison should not be tendered as a concession to the Soviet Union in the then current Geneva discussions.

Current Paper: - Contains a proposed memorandum to SECDEF that informs him that the JCS perceive no fundamental change in the threat to the freedom and safety of Berlin, and recent developments do not indicate any modification to the long-term objectives of the Soviet Union with respect to Germany and Berlin. Further, the proposed memorandum informs SECDEF that the JCS have re-examined their memorandum of 8 Jul 59 on the same subject, and have concluded that the opinions and recommendations set forth therein remain valid.

Service Comments: - The Services are expected to support the paper as written.

Comments and Recommendation: - The International Policy Branch, J-5, recommends that the Chairman, JCS, support the paper as written.

Opinions as to Recommendation: -

Director, J-5                      (Concur) (Non-concur)

Director, Joint Staff                      (Concur) (Non-concur)

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